

U.S. Military Academy - Bachelor Enlisted Men's Quarters HABS No. NY-5708-54
(Enlisted Men's Barracks)
Northwest of the intersection of Washington Road,
Biddle Loop and Buckner Hill Road
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS
NY
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - BACHELOR ENLISTED MEN'S QUARTERS
(Enlisted Men's Barracks)

LOCATION: Northwest of the intersection of Washington Road, Biddle Loop and Buckner Hill Road, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

U.S.G.S. West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.5860000.4583410

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Post Chaplain Annex.

SIGNIFICANCE: This simple structure survives as a common type of early twentieth-century bachelor enlisted men's barracks.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1919 (Lange).
2. Architect: Presumably a standard Army quartermaster design.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Post engineer's office.
5. Original plans and construction: Originally constructed as four separate bachelor enlisted men's quarters, the building retained this function until 1972 when it was converted into the Post Chaplain annex. As four separate quarters, the building had no longitudinal circulation but rather, transverse access, similar to a barracks plan. Drawing number 7913 from the Facilities Engineer's Office, entitled "Conversion of QT'RS 337, 339, 341 and 343 for Post Chaplain Annex," and dated September 1972, indicates this internal arrangement insofar as it existed before the conversion. Each typical quarters had six rooms, presumably two bedrooms (arranged back-to-back like a barracks), a living room, a dining room, kitchen and a bathroom. Four separate porches on the front indicated the four quarters. Frame additions indicate that originally, each unit consisted of just four rooms (see sketch plan).
6. Alterations and additions: Prior to the 1972 conversion, the only datable alterations occurred in 1957 when a forced air heating system was installed, requiring the addition of a brick chimney on the south side.

Alterations that occurred during the 1972 conversion included the removal of the northern and southern porches on the east elevation; the removal of four frame additions on the west elevation; the erection of four sets

of wooden steps and stoops on the west; new doors on the west; the removal of 2 square brick chimneys on the west; a door made into a window (west); new 2" x 4" stud partitions on the interior; the removal of interior doors, cabinets and closets; new doorways cut through interior brick walls to provide longitudinal circulation; and opening the wall that separated the bedrooms.

Undated alterations include: The filling of a bull's-eye window; and the miscellaneous replacement and alteration of interior finish, such as fluorescent lights and accoustical tile ceilings.

- B. Historical Context: For the historical and architectural context of these quarters within the overall development of West Point are: HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Architecturally, the Enlisted Men's Quarters has lost much of its integrity as an early twentieth-century enlisted men's barracks. Nevertheless, it is an example of an inexpensive barracks-type quarters constructed in a simple manner without decorative features.
2. Condition of fabric: The structure is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The rectangular one-story building is approximately 97' (N-S) x 31' (E-W). The ten-bay facade (east) has two doors and eight windows symmetrically arranged. There is a basement which was not examined.
2. Foundations: Foundation walls are rock face granite laid in a random range ashlar pattern. These are visible above grade to various heights. There is no watertable.
3. Walls: Walls are brick laid in a five course American Bond. Most sections of the wall have been repointed and repaired, much of it without regard to mortar color, joint size or brick bond. Two large "ghosts" on the east wall outline the location of the porches removed in 1972. The frame additions on the west side have wooden weatherboards; the south side of the southwest frame addition has German Siding.
4. Structural system, framing: Walls are load-bearing brick on a stone foundation. Drawings issued in 1957 for the installation of a heating system mention that the wooden floor joists are 3" x 8". The roof is probably a common rafter framing system.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: Two frame porches with wooden steps remain on the facade, measuring approximately 9'-6" x 6'-6". Both are nearly identical, having brick piers; a wooden floor; three freestanding chamfered square posts; two engaged pilasters; a wooden cornice; and a wooden hip roof.

There are four sets of stairs on the west, each with a concrete pad step, wooden steps, 3' x 4' wooden decking; and metal pipe handrails.

There are two shed-type bulkheads; one on the west and one on the south. The west bulkhead has concrete cheek walls and plywood doors. The south bulkhead was brick cheek walls and batten doors.

6. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys remain on the building: a square five course American Bond chimney attached to the south wall and a lower square brick chimney attached to one of the frame additions on the west. The latter was evidently a kitchen stove flue and the former a heating stove flue. A square stovepipe chimney flue in the center of each quarters indicates that there were once more chimney stacks.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Both front doors appear to be original. These are wooden doors having two lower panels below six glazed lights. Sills are stone and segmental brick arches form the heads. The four doors on the west are wooden with three glazed lights each; they measure 2'-8" x 6'6" x 1 3/8".
- b. Cornice, eaves: A plain wooden cornice is extended out from the walls by outriggers which are exposed under the eaves.

- C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The present floor plan differs from the original (see sketch plan) in that the east rooms are now connected north and south in an en filade fashion; the three rooms of the main block have become two; and the additions were added on the west. The space of the two quarters on the north is now used for five classrooms (presumably Sunday school classes), two restrooms and a storage room. The two quarters on the south are used for two chaplain offices, two assistant officers offices, a secretary's office, a library and lounge, a restroom, two storage rooms and a kitchen.
2. Flooring: Most floors are now covered with carpet. Vinyl asbestos tile covers the bathroom floors.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: For the most part, walls and ceilings are plaster. Exceptions include a dropped acoustical tile ceiling in the center rooms and beaded flush vertical wainscoting in the frame additions on the west. Where new walls exist, the finish is a plaster skim coat on gypsum board.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Three original interior doors exist in the east-west partition walls on the east end of the front rooms. These are four-panel wooden doors. Newer solid wooden doors range from 2'-4" x 6'-8" x 1 3/8" to 2'-10" x 6'-11" x 1 3/8". Original doorways have a simple bead molding applied to the trim. New openings have a 1" x 4" backband on one side and a 3/4" quarter round molding on the other.
 - b. Windows: There is no interior window trim of note.

5. Decorative features, hardware: None of note.

6. Mechanical equipment:

a. Heating: Forced heating system with baseboard registers.

b. Lighting: Lighting is both incandescent and fluorescent.

D. Site.

1. General setting and orientation: The Bachelor Enlisted Men's Quarters is sited on a grassy site facing Washington Road in what has been named the Early Enlisted Men's Area, formerly called Rugerstown (see Lange's "Overview"). Although not tightly confined, the building is surrounded by enlisted men's quarters to the north, east and west. To the south is a switch station, which is an adaptively reused munitions magazine dating from 1867. An asphalt parking lot has been created just to the west of the building. Shrubs have been planted near the building on the east and west sides.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings: The earliest measured drawings date to 1972. These are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.

B. Early Views: Early photographs can be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.

2. Secondary and published sources: Annual reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey. 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey. 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

D. Likely sources not yet Investigated: National Archives, Washington, D.C.

E. Supplemental Material:

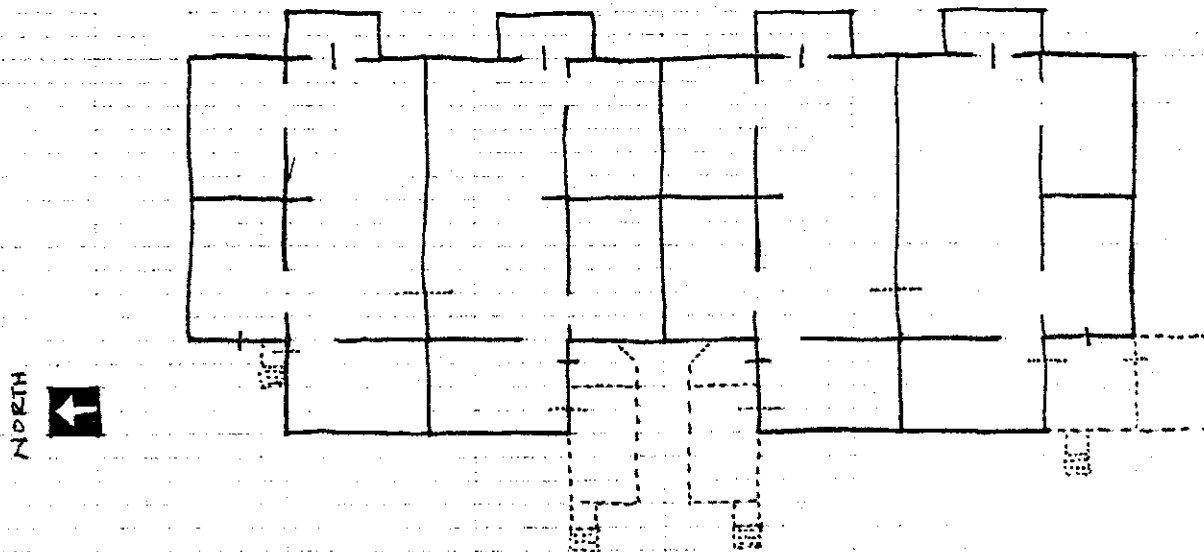
1. Sketch of conjectural original plan.

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CONJECTURAL ORIGINAL PLAN

BASED ON PLAN NO. 7913 "CONVERSION
OF QTRS 337, 339, 341 AND 343 FOR
POST CHAPLAIN ANNEX" 1972
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER, U.S.M.A.

T.C.M. 1984

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr., architectural historian, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982.